



## Amendments to the Specification

At page 1, line 5, substitute the amended paragraph:

“ The present application is related to U.S. Provisional Patent Application serial no. 60/401,428, filed on Aug. 5, 2002, which is incorporated herein by reference and to which priority is claimed pursuant to 35 USC 119. The present application is also a continuation application related to U.S. Patent Application serial no. 10/629,015, filed on July 29, 2003, and issued as U.S. Patent \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_, which is incorporated herein by reference and to which priority is claimed pursuant to 35 USC 120.”

Amend the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 20 as follows:

“ The invention is a method for the preparation of a specimen for atom probe sampling comprising the steps of providing a slab of material from which the specimen will be taken; defining a plurality of posts in the slab ~~by in the slab~~; removing at least one post from the slab; and mounting the post.”